

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - November 24, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that Dr. Joseph Yedid, a 59-year-old San Diego psychologist, was sentenced in federal court in San Diego on November 19, 2004 for fraudulently obtaining money from Medicare through the submission of false billings. The Honorable Barry Ted Moskowitz sentenced Dr. Yedid to six (6) months of home confinement, with electronic monitoring, restricting Dr. Yedid to his home except for such purposes as work and attending religious services; 250 hours of community service; and three years of supervised release. The sentence also included an order to pay a \$10,000 fine – in addition to Yedid's paying restitution, at the time of his sentencing, of over \$37,000 in fraudulently-obtained money.

Earlier this year, in his guilty plea before Judge Moskowitz, Dr. Yedid admitted that his scheme to defraud included billing Medicare for psychotherapy sessions on dates when he was out of town or out of the country, billing for psychotherapy purportedly provided at a hospital on a date after the patient was discharged, and billing for lengthy consultations when he had visited the patient for only a very short period of time.

United States Attorney Lam noted that Dr. Yedid would now also be barred from further participation in the Medicare program as a result of his conviction.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Kyle W. Hoffman, who prosecuted the case, Dr. Yedid submitted false and inflated bills to Medicare over a two-year period. During the time period in question, Dr. Yedid practiced at Paradise Valley Hospital in National City, at Continental Rehabilitation Hospital in Hillcrest, and at an office located at 9636 Tierra Grande Street, #105, in Mira Mesa. Dr. Yedid later moved his practice to 12625 High Bluff Drive, Suite 113, in Del Mar Heights.

United States Attorney Lam praised the efforts of the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who conducted the joint investigation culminating in the guilty plea.

DEFENDANT

DR. JOSEPH YEDID

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Mail fraud in violation of Title 18, United States Code, § 1341
Maximum penalty: Five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine

AGENCIES

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General
Federal Bureau of Investigation